EXPLORE

THE SPEAKING TREE PUNE, JULY 19, 2015



Gautama Buddha And Zorba The Greek



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he seed has sprouted. Before your eyes, opposites (science and religion) are turning into 'complementaries'. Science alone is only one-half and cannot be a fulfilment for man. It can give you a better body, better health, longer life. It can give you more comforts, more luxury. I am not against any of these. But it can only give you things of the outer world — which are beautiful in themselves.

Better Life

I would like everyone to live in more comfort and luxury, in better health, well-nourished and fed, and better educated. But that's not all; that is only the circumference of life, not the centre.

Religion provides the centre. It gives you a soul. Without it, science is a corpse — a beautiful corpse, maybe. The same is the case with religion. Religion alone is not enough. Religion alone makes you a ghost.

If religion is not materialistic enough it becomes an escape, a dream world, a Disneyland. That's what has happened in the east: we talked too much of the spirit and forgot all about the reality that surrounds us. We became introverts, too concerned about ourselves. We forgot all about the beauties of trees and mountains, sun, moon and stars. Humanity in the east became ugly. It has a centre with no circumference. The west has a circumference but no centre. People have everything, but something essential is missing.

Science and religion are becoming one. Great scientists — Eddington,

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Planck, Einstein — became aware that science alone is not enough. There is something far more mysterious which cannot be grasped only through scientific methodology and means, something which needs a different approach, which needs more meditative awareness. Eddington says in his autobiography, "When I started my career as a scientist, I used to think that the world consisted of things, but as I grow old I am becoming more and more aware that the world does not consist of things but of thoughts."

Reality is far closer to thoughts than to things. Reality is far more mysterious than you can weigh or measure. Reality is not only objective, it is also subjective. Reality is not only content, it is also consciousness. And the greatest religious people, like J Krishnamurti, are aware that religion cannot exist anymore as it has existed up to now. Something of a radical change is needed. My own approach is that we have to create Zorba the Buddha. The new Buddha will be a synthesis of Zorba the Greek and Gautama the Buddha. He cannot be just Zorba, and he cannot be just Buddha. And that's my whole effort to create a bridge between Zorba and Buddha, between the earth, this shore, and the farther shore, the beyond.

New Science

A totally new science is bound to arrive. It will be both science and religion. It will be science both of the inner and the outer. In fact, the days of religion are over, just science will do, one word will do. 'Science' is a beautiful word; it means knowing, wisdom.

Science should be divided in two categories: objective science — chemistry, physics, mathematics, etc — and subjective science. Then there is no need to divide religion and science. And the meeting of religion and science in one whole will create for the first time a whole man. The Dhammapada: The Way of the Buddha. Courtesy: Osho International Foundation, www.osho.com